

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

RIORDAN ET AL. Atty. Ref.: 1137-12

Appl. No. Group: Unassigned

Filed: October 23, 2003 Examiner: Unassigned

For: LATERAL CONNECTION SYSTEM

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October 23, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A connection system comprising:

first and second pipes for flowing a fluid;

one of said first and second pipes having a female fitting in fluid communication with the one pipe, said fitting having straight, non-tapered female threads;